

New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.

SUITE 401
1 WEST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, N. Y. 10036
PHONES PLAZA 7-5245-6

November 12, 1968

Mr. Raymond H. Williamson
933 Rothowood Rd.
Lynchburg, Va. 24503

Dear Friend Williamson:

It was indeed good to talk to you today and many thanks for calling my attention to your letter of the 20th ultimo. After our talk I called John Ford who apologized that he had not gotten to you before this but we both have been thoroughly immersed in finalizing our 60th auction sale catalogue which should be in your hand by now or if not, in the very near future.

In reading your letter may I say immediately that we are interested in the acquisition of this material. However, I don't have to tell you that the matter of the "spots", the smudges, etc., all must be seen to determine how serious they are. Do you think it would be at all possible for you to get hold of the material and forward same for our inspection? Needless to say, when the coins are viewed we will be in a much better position to discuss their worth.

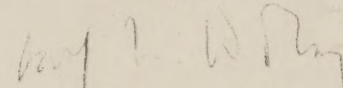
I assume that at the same time you will forward the other three Patterns and the Cyrus field item which John Ford tells me, contrary to my statement, is of interest.

Just in case you are in a position to mention our name and of course this is entirely up to you, we would suggest that if they want references, we deal at the Bank of New York, 530 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. and furthermore are listed in Dun & Bradstreet.

Looking forward to hearing from you further, we beg to remain

Very truly yours,

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO. INC.


Charles M. Wormser
President

CMW:dn

New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.

SUITE 401
1 WEST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, N. Y. 10036
PHONES PLAZA 7-5245-6

November 14, 1968

Mr. R. H. Williamson
933 Rothwood Road
Lynchburg, Va. 24503

Dear Friend Williamson:

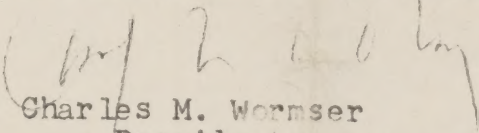
Your letter of the 11th arrived this morning and I never believe in not answering a communication particularly one as interesting as is yours.

However, I think that I have nothing further to add to my communication to you of the 12th and just for your information, we stand ready to purchase the lot although before any firm commitment can be made it would be necessary for us to see the material. By all means, send us the case for there is no question that this would help things.

You should be receiving our catalogue if not already in hand and with many thanks for your kindness, beg to remain

Very truly yours,

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO. INC.


Charles M. Wormser
President

CM:dn

Nov 24 1968

Mr. Charles M. Wormser
New Netherlands Coin Co. Inc.
1 West 47th Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Wormser:

Yesterday I mailed you four packages, special handling:

- 1) Set of 19 Pattern Coins, registered for \$2000.
- 2) Velvet-covered presentation case for the 16 1868 patterns.
- 3) Piece of glass 8-3/16" x 5-5/32" x 7/64" which is to fit inside the presentation case. (2nd pc of glass appears to have formerly fit inside case also, but now missing.)
- 4) Wax model for Cyrus W. Field Medal; in round leather case. The wax model has not been offered for sale, but why not make a proposal on it?

I debated on whether to send you the glass, and finally decided to take the risk, since the case doesn't close properly without it (or a filler, which I hadn't time to prepare.) I packed all material as well as I knew. If material is returned, I believe you can improve on my packing of the wax model to ^{protect} ~~protect~~ it from puncture or squeezing from the flat side; however it was well-packed-- it's just that I'm nervous about handling other people's property.

I also debated about repairs on the presentation case prior to shipment. I found that I couldn't protect it properly for shipment without regluing one of the leather hinges, which was every which way; so I did the best I could with that, and have no regrets with the job considering how it was before.

The aluminum corrosion apparently is not an oxide; anyhow it is black rather than white (as stated in my Nov 11 letter.)

It is probable that I can supply the pedigree on this material down the generations of the descendants of Secy Treas Hugh McCullough, altho I know it at present only as a stated fact.

So now I'll repeat the questions in my Nov 11 letter:

What would be your commission rate at auction? I no longer consider cash by Jan 1 1969 a really mandatory part of the transaction.

What would you give for the patterns (and for the wax model) as a direct sale? Please do not be limited by the \$2000 mentioned in my Nov 11 letter; if "fair value" is higher or lower, please give me the word.

11-24-68

It would seem to be in the interest of the owner of this material (and a prudent business procedure) to secure offers from a few others. Since I'm inexperienced, I'd be pleased to receive your constructive comments re what I have in mind -- what are the ethics, and what is customary? After receiving your offer, if any, I'd like to secure offers from Hans Schulman, Eric Newman and Louis Eliasberg -- after first determining if each is interested; I'd give each one a chance to inspect the material; and I'd give each one the opportunity to know the other offers and bid higher if he wished.

Enclosed are three rubbings of very large medals in very high relief which also came from McCulloch. Edges are all plain; the largest seems to be a beautiful casting in brass, one reason being that microscopic tool marks appear on the edge circumferentially. The other two are bronze. All have been cleaned but injured very little in the process. I think they had been used as ash trays!!! The surfaces and edges are in very good shape for their age. The owner is interested in having them attributed, but has stated she does not wish to sell them. The die for the kneeling-figure side of the smallest medal is signed "Paquet.F."; the heads-side of the Cyrus W. Field medal is signed BARBER F; and the horses-in-center side of the big medal is signed in semi-legible microscopic letters PIETECOI or DISTECOI or similar (cast letters are filled.) The two bronze medals are pretty obviously die-struck medals made at the Philadelphia Mint -- but can you help me on the big brass one? It seems from another source -- perhaps more modern European.

PISTRUCOI
Cast letters
filled

Best regards to you and to John Ford. Hope to hear from you soon.

Very truly yours,

Ray Williamson

Raymond H. Williamson

Encl.

Dec 1 1968

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.
Suite 401, 1 W 47th Street
New York NY 10036

Dear John:

I certainly appreciate your phone call last Wednesday,
and your offer of a way to dispose of the aluminum patterns
et al.

However, I've been mulling over the interests of the owner
and decided I must follow the generally prudent business
procedure of getting an offer from at least one other firm
or collector. Within my limited experience your position
seems eminently fair, but I do not feel I can go back to
the owner with "one bid" and that not a firm one. It is
quite possible that after a try or two I'll be back to you
again -- and I recognize you may tell me then: "No interest!"
I'll have to take that chance.

So please ship all the stuff back to me again -- unless you
wish to bid on the wax pattern separately. Please register
the coins at \$2000 and insure the case and wax model for \$100
each. I'll reimburse you for these expenses if that is your
custom in such cases.

Best regards, and may our paths cross again soon.

Very truly yours,

Raymond H. Williamson
Raymond H. Williamson

New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.

SUITE 401
1 WEST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, N. Y. 10036

PHONES PLAZA 7-5245-6

December 16, 1968

Mr. Raymond H. Williamson
933 Bethwood Rd.
Lynchburg, Va. 24503

Dear Friend Williamson:

I am sorry that we have been slow about returning your material to you but between our auction sale and the flu we have gotten quite delayed on operations.

In any event, the parcel has been sent to you under separate cover by Railway Air Express and I do hope will reach you in good order.

Am somewhat disappointed in the way the matter is working out in that from what John Ford told me an agreement had been reached concerning the disposition of the material. However, we must defer to you and will of course look forward to hearing further after you have taken whatever action you think necessary.

We appreciate your courtesy and beg to remain with cordial greetings of the season.

Very truly yours,

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO. INC.

Charles M. Wormser
Charles M. Wormser
President

CMW:dn

P.S. The entire shipment has been sent in one parcel, very carefully packed and we are sure will arrive in good order.

*Recd letter 12-19 (Thurs)
Coins 12-18 (Wed)*

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON

933 ROTHWOOD RD.
LYNCHBURG, VA. 24503
PHONE 703-848-8950

Dec 20 1968

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63100 (ZIP?)

Dear Eric:

The 16 aluminum patterns of 1868 etc. arrived from New Netherlands Dec 18 in good condition. I don't want to take the chance of shipping them to St. Louis bucking the Christmas mail, so I will forward them to you the first week in January. This is the material discussed with you by phone the evening of Dec 1. I wrote for them Dec 1; seems a little slow, but they were having a big auction and staff depletion with Hong Kong flu.

The owner is:

Mrs. C. W. McLennan
3408 Landon St.
Lynchburg VA 24503

She does not want to get into the act of disposing of this material in any way, except to receive the much-needed money.

I plan to send you the 19 patterns (incl 3 Ni ones of 1869), and the presentation case without the glass as we discussed. I hope you like them well enough to make an offer or to suggest another collector who might. The J. J. Ford proposal has never been reduced to writing, but it went something like this. They get 20 % of the selling price for displaying it six months in their store, with an "escalator" (really "deescalator") selling price. They pay insurance and any costs of sales efforts incl photography. Should be sold to someone who wants a super display item, but not to a collector interested only in pristine specimens. They would not ship out the material to anyone for inspection. They might start the selling price for the 19 patterns at \$2000, and drop it in successive weeks to a bottom figure on which we would agree. He described the material as "doubly a white elephant," due to limited number of pattern collectors and to condition deterioration. I don't think this is quite the way it is.

I'm sending copies of some of the correspondence made on my new 3M "Casual" Compact copier.

If your ANS paper on "The Circulation of British Halfpence in America" is reduced to writing at any time, I'd very much appreciate a copy of it. Your research on the name is duly noted. It reminded me of the research done by the late Alfred Percy, Lynchburg historian and a friend of mine, on place names hereabouts. I'm sending some machine-copied excerpts under separate cover; for one reason, they are too heavy to go air mail.

Statements about forgeries and dealer morals in your Oct 25 letter

12-20-68

give me pause as to how I should dispose of my collection when I get through with it some day; or as probably, my wife or my "estate" may be stuck with the nasty job. Books would be nearly as difficult to recover reasonable value. I should like very much to discuss these matters with you personally at an appropriate time. I really took on the assignment of disposing of the patterns to gain experience, and I'm gaining it.

Also under separate cover, too heavy for air mail, are some machine-copied pages from Administration des Monnaies et Medailles, Paris. I've been going to send you this for many months; it may be "old stuff" to you, but if not some of the ostensibly old material offered will interest you.

Tomorrow Hazel and I take off by car for a week's winter vacation at the Ponte Vedra Club, south of Jacksonville. She will play golf with friends and I (hopefully) will get some writing done which has been delayed six years by pressures of business. We shall see! We'll be back Dec 29.

FREUDIAN
SLIP!

Best regards. I'll write again when I ship the patterns.

Very truly yours,

Raymond H. Williamson

Raymond H. Williamson

Patterns are Judd:

612
614
621
622
636
639
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
660
664
665

1868 Al

See The Numismatist
July 1910, pp 161-168
Aug. 1910, pp 210-212

666
676
684 } 1869 Nl

New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.

SUITE 401
1 WEST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, N. Y. 10036
PHONES PLAZA 7-5245-6

December 26, 1968

Mr. Raymond H. Williamson
933 Rothwood Rd.
Lynchburg, Va. 24503

Dear Brother Williamson:

I am taking the liberty of answering your letter of December 20th addressed to Charles Wormser, acknowledging receipt of the aluminum strikings of the 1868 coinage and related material in good order.

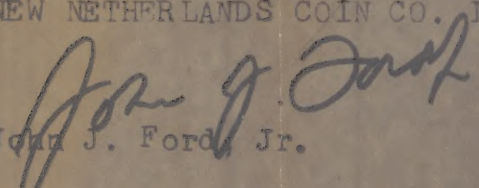
I have the remote feeling that you totally misunderstood my conversation with you concerning these items. I did not make an "offer", as such, but rather proposed that we handle this material on brokerage, acting as agents for the owner through yourself. In making this proposal you and I discussed the general area at which we should commence trying to sell the set of cased pieces, with the idea of gradually lowering our asking price until we found a purchaser. I believe that we both thought that the initial asking price should be in the \$2,250.00 - \$2,500.00 range. I believe we also agreed on a commission of 20% for our services which would include advertising, insurance and any other expenses borne by us.

Our proposition remains open, as it is not hard for us to understand your being extraordinarily careful since you are acting as an agent.

Let us hear from you if you think we can be of service to you, and in the meantime, best wishes for a healthy and happy 1969.

Sincerely yours,

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO., INC.


John J. Ford, Jr.

JJF:dn

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON

933 ROTHWOOD RD.
LYNCHBURG, VA. 24503
PHONE 703-845-8950

Jan 4 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric:

This morning I mailed two packages to you, but not the patterns; I arrived just before closing time and they wouldn't insure my package the way I had wrapped it. So -- I'll re-do it and mail it Monday Jan 6.

The two packages sent were the display case as promised plus (not promised!) the glass insert. I sent the latter because it was returned by New Netherlands unopened in a larger box; therefore all I had to do was to attach a new label.

There's an interesting item on old Secy Treas Hugh McCulloch (whose personal aluminum patterns these were) in Lynn Glaser's "Counterfeiting in America," p 106. I'll copy and send it if you don't have the book, but I'll bet you do. Breen gives this book quite a puff in the Feb 1969 Coins magazine already at hand. It is stuffed with a great deal of information and is very readable, but I sure wish it had an index and better citation to references.

Best regards -- in haste!

Very truly yours,

Ray Williamson
Raymond H. Williamson

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON

933 ROTHWOOD RD.
LYNCHBURG, VA. 24503
PHONE 703-848-8950

Jan 5 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis MO 63105

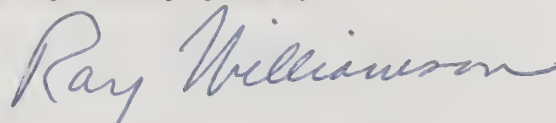
Dear Eric:

I'm holding this letter until I'm sure the aluminum patterns are mailed. The brush with the Federal bureaucracy Sat AM was due to the fact that they will not accept a package where their registration rubber-stamp mark bridges the closure in a package if the closure is made with anything they call "tape" -- even the tough tape you'll find underneath gum paper on this package. They want WIDE gummed paper closure. (All this only in case the valuation is over \$200). Well, they have This closure now, I believe.

I'm enclosing the McCulloch item from Lynn Glaser's "Counterfeiting in America", p 106; also John Ford's Dec 26 letter. He is wrong about my misunderstanding the conversation with him.

Hope to hear from you within a few weeks. Best Regards.

Very truly yours,



Raymond H. Williamson

Encl. (2)

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON

933 ROTHWOOD RD.
LYNCHBURG, VA. 24503
PHONE 703-845-8950

Feb 24 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

It was very fine hearing from you Saturday morning. I described appropriate parts of our conversation to Mrs. McLennan, who (it turns out) does not seem to be pressing me for time after all. You have my blessing for trying to remove the black salt from a sample pattern; John Ford identified it as aluminum carbonate. I know you'll use the same care you would if the sample pattern were your own. It is fully recognized that the surface is bound to be impaired under the carbonate, but it should present a far better appearance as rough aluminum than as a black encrustation.

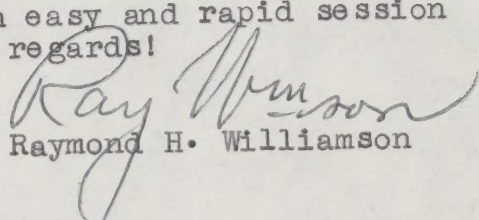
There is enclosed a copy of the "Bidding" page of A. Kosoff's 2-25-69 sale. I have no idea how he actually operates, but the principles set forth at the marked paragraphs certainly deserve the emulation of other dealers.

Another enclosure briefly describes Boulton coins for Australia in 1800. (Numisma of Australia, 9-1968). While I don't collect Australian coins, a quick ⁸²⁷ look at convenient sources doesn't show the existence of such coins. Note also that Sir Joseph Banks was pushing decimal coinage there in 1805, and how long it took to get it. Further note that the Aussies successfully pushed the Boulton coins into circulation, each "at double its English nominal value," just as Jefferson tried to do with the Virginia half-pence in the proposed bill of Nov 7 1776 before the Virginia House of Delegates. (Your "Coinage for Colonial Virginia" NNM 135, p30.)

Yet another enclosure lists my holdings (and knowledge of a few others) re the editions of Eckfeldt & Dubois and also of some Coin Chart Manuals.

I hope you secure some enjoyment/info from this material, and with the greatest sincerity wish you an easy and rapid session in the hospital with your stone. Best regards!

Encl.


Raymond H. Williamson

Eckfeldt & Dubois Editions

1st large Ed., Phila 1842, 220 pp +16 pl, trimmed to 7-7/8"x10-1/4"
Bot 8-16-52 ANA auction lot 675 \$11, New Netherlands et al; believed
Homer Downing's copy. Rebound VF, ink names, foxed.

Believe 2nd 1850 Ed. Front part 1842 Phila, 220 pp + 16 pl, untrimmed
at 8"x10-1/2"; orig binding includes "Supplement to the Manual
of Coins & Bullion" Dec 1849, pp 221-240 bound with rest of pages +
4"x6-3/4" sheet tipped in following p 240 "The Mormon Coins" with
printed date "Jan. 10" after which is ms "1850" in pencil. Bot
for \$5.50 from B. Max Mehl Co., item 1 in their NSM ad in 6-59 issue.
It is a beat-up dog, below the grade of poor.

I corresponded with Katen re his Bargain List Suppl No. 1 10-1960 pl
listing of an odd -ball edition of Eckfeldt & Dubois described as
having plates in color; author "Steele" turned out to be a former
owner. Katen told me 11-60 that there were two plates X identical
except one has 11-S of Holland 1794 colored gold plus Pl XIV in
copper color the coins were gold. Listed \$10; didn't buy as plates
evidently hand-colored. Was 1842 Ed.

I have a nice 3rd Ed 1852 of the "New Varieties . ." 5-3/8"x8-1/2"
with "Pledges of History . ." bound in; this is 2nd Ed of the
latter (1851). (ANS has 1st 1846 Ed. of "Pledges . . ", believed
very rare.)

I formerly owned another 3rd Ed 1852 with bound-in "History of
Banking . ." Both of above believed to be original binding.

Katen's 3-52 NSM ad lists the 1st rare ¹⁸⁵⁰ Ed. of "New Varieties . ."
at \$7.50; I bot 3rd 1852 Ed at \$5.00, from same ad on p 265.

1849 Vol 5 Thompson's Coin Chart Manual, 5-1/2" x 9", paper cover,
sold at 12-1/2¢. This was a free? supplement to their Bank Note
Reporter. NYC.

1859 Imlay & Bicknell's "Coins of the World", paper covers, Phila.,
8-1/4" x 11-3/8". "Given gratuitously to all subscribers to the
Bank Note Reporter." I have J. R. Eckfeldt's copy.

Jan 1859/? J. Thompson's Bank Note Reporter; mauled, cover missing.
7-3/4" x 10-3/4". Below poor. Latest ad dated Dec 17 1858.

1865 "Metropolitan Coin Book" 25¢, 7-3/4"x11-1/4". NY. Coins of
the World. "Gratis to one-year Subscribers to The Metropolitan
Bank Note Reporter and Bank Register."

Ray Williamson

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON

933 ROTHWOOD RD.
LYNCHBURG, VA. 24503
PHONE 703-845-8950

June 29 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

This note should be waiting for you on your return from your trip. Mrs. McLennan was pleased with the check, and I hope it will turn out you are equally pleased with the patterns. I certainly learned some lessons from this selling experience, which was what I set out to do. It makes me wonder if I (or my estate) will ever be smart enough to achieve fair value for my modest holdings of coins and numismatic books. It would seem best to find an honest and substantial dealer and put one's affairs in his hands. But who is he? Who indeed? There seems to be resentment to the concept of getting bids from two or three dealers.

I'm pleased with the Waterloo medal as an artistic object; in fact it is displayed on our mantelpiece. I gave Mrs. McLennan photo-copies of all the material about her patterns and medals, and also a copy of Hugh McCulloch's thick book "Men and Measures of Half a Century," which pleased her very much.

I don't need any samples of early Virginia bookkeeping, but had a couple of particularly choice samples I've loaned to someone and forgotten who. Oh well, they'll probably turn up in time.

The Franklin letter is indeed interesting; I hope you'll send me a copy of your New York talk on the subject -- that is, if you spoke from a manuscript. By the way, where was the letter published, and how did you ever come across it?

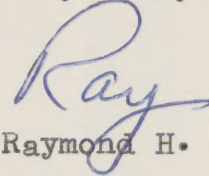
An item for you, in case you've missed it. "The Mitchell-Boulton Correspondence, 1787-1792" (edited by descendent Clarence Blair Mitchell, 1931) omits by design or by lack of knowledge the key item, which shows that John Hinckley Mitchell was a pretty fast operator with the unearned increment, or at least he tried to be. The whole story was given a review by Dr. Julian P. Boyd in (I believe) Vol. 17 of "The Papers of Thomas Jefferson," July-Dec 1790 (1965). By the way, Princeton University Press in their announcement bulletin received 12-68 announced Vol. 18 would be out in "Spring 1969", and cover Nov. 1790 - Mar. 1791. This should cover much of the Jefferson-Droz correspondence that I have so laboriously copied from mss sources in The National Archives. Something odd must have been delaying the appearance of Vol. 18; on June 22, 1967, Boyd wrote me: "...Volume 18 is long overdue and I am pressing hard to get it to the printer in the next few weeks. It has presented a great number of complicated problems in politics, both domestic and foreign,

6-29-69

and has kept me occopied far longer than I had anticipated."
And that was two years ago. Are there some items of our
history of that period which have never surfaced, and perhaps
should not surface now??? I haven't seen Volume 18 as yet.

Must sign off -- many things on the agenda before my once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Dolomites. Best regards and hope your health is fully restored.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Raymond H. Williamson